(b) if so, whether Government of Gujarat has requested the Central Government for including this project in the said list;

(c) if so, the reasons for its non-inclusion in the list so far; and

(d) by when it shall be included?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Under the revised mega power policy announced by the Government of India in November, 1998, certain power project sites have been identified as mega power projects for development as multi-state mega power projects, both in the public as well as private sector. The identified mega power projects arc being given certain fiscal concessions, which *inter-alia,* includes exemption from payment of customs duty on import of capital equipment for these projects Apart from the projects already identified for such concessions, Government has not decided to include any more projects for grant of the fiscal concession and also, no criteria has been laid down for including more projects in future. The River Bed Power House of Sardar Sarovar Project has not been included in the list of identified mega power projects and notified for grant of the said fiscal concessions.

(b) The River Bed Power House of Sardar Sarovar Project is not eligible for exemption from payment of import duty as it is not included in the list of identified mega power projects. Government of Gujarat have been requesting for exemption from customs duty for import of Turbine Generator sets for the above project on the lines of mega power project being developed under the revised mega power policy.

(c) and (d) As stated above, the list of identified mega power projects does not include the River Bed Power House of Sardar Sarovar Project, which is an ongoing project. The revised mega power policy also does not provide for inclusion of such ongoing projects.

SEBI Report on Payments to Brokers for Rigging Stock/Share Prices

3896. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that SEBI had sent a detailed report to Government about the payments made to the brokers by certain firms to rig up its stock/ share prices;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The Central Government has received a report on the investigations conducted by SEBI into the alleged price manipulations in the scrips of BPL Ltd., Videocon International Ltd., and Sterlite Industries Ltd., following large volumes of transactions coupled with abnormal price movements in these shares during the period April-May 1998. Investigations revealed that BPL Ltd., and Sterlite Industries Ltd., connived with Harshad Mehta in manipulating the prices of these companies.

SEBI has issued show cause notices in this regard to (i) Harshad Mehta, Damayanti Group entities & their Directors and connected 34 brokers, (ii) BPL Ltd., Videocon and Sterlite Industries and their concerned Directors. Orders have been passed under the SEBI Act, against 18 of the above mentioned 34 brokers, directing them not to undertake fresh activities as brokers till completion of enquiry proceedings.

Non-plan support to sick public sector units

3 897. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have paid crores of rupees to the sick public sector units to provide non-plan support;

(b) if so, what is amount spent during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) what are the names of the units which have been provided with the monetary support by Government; and

(d) whether any decision has been taken by Government in respect of those closed public sector units; if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Details of non-plan support provided to sick public sector units are reported to Parliament through a separate statement in the Expenditure Budget Vol I. Relevant extracts taken from Budget 97-98, 98-99, 99-2000 and 2000-2001 are given in the Annexure *[See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 97].